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Marches of the Dragoons in the Mississippi valley. An account of marches and activities of the first regiment United States Dragoons in the Mississippi valley between the years 1833 and 1850. By Louis Pelzer. (Iowa City, Iowa: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1917. 282 p. \$2.50)

"The American people have always merely tolerated their army," said an officer of that army at the declaration of war in 1918, "now they must begin to cherish it." In partial fulfilment of this mission all the presses are pouring forth histories of the campaigns and regiments of our earlier army, books and articles on strategy and methods, military historical magazines, and an increasing amount of military information of every kind. In conformity with the spirit of the times Mr. Pelzer has conceived and executed a worth while account of the campaigns of the first regiment of dragoons, which was in 1833 raised to protect and range the frontier. His book, moreover, while filling a niche in the military history of our country, is also a part of the history of the west. It depicts the varied services rendered by the regiment of dragoons in the protection of the further American settlements, in guarding the distant commercial caravans to Santa Fe, and those of the Oregon emigrants in the trail to the South West Pass, in overawing the Indians, aiding in their removals, councils, and treaties, and finally in assisting to wrest New Mexico and California from our southern neighbor by the great overland marches of 1847 and 1848.

Although Mr. Pelzer does not trace the origin of the mounted dragoons whose historian he has become, any one familiar with western history will readily discover the source in the volunteer and militia rangers that were raised to protect the frontier from the time of the French and Indian war onward. "Forting" for defense, "ranging" for discovery and protection were the two devices familiar to every frontiersman. In the Wisconsin lead mines during the Winnebago outbreak of 1827 and the Black Hawk war of 1832 these well-known frontier methods were resorted to, dozens of small log forts were built into which the women and children retreated, while the men embodied in a volunteer cavalry, called by the old familiar title of "rangers." To command this troop the men chose by acclamation Major Henry Dodge, a commander of Missouri rangers during the war of 1812.

The protection afforded the frontier by Dodge's rangers and their effective part in the pursuit and capture of Black Hawk's belligerent band suggested a regular rather than a volunteer company of men to operate upon the frontier. It is fitting that the biographer of Henry Dodge should be the historian of the troop his energy founded, and his abilities gathered. It might have been well, however, if Mr. Pelzer

had traced the connection between the voluntary rangers and the dragoon regiment, and especially had given us some account of the battalion of United States rangers of 1833, which was also commanded by Dodge and which was the immediate predecessor of the dragoons.

Mr. Pelzer's book is interesting, and so skillfully has he interwoven his quotations from original accounts that one seems to be reading a narrative of a participant in the dragoon's campaigns. From the standpoint of the historian, however, there are some corrections to be made. It is nowhere said that Dodge resigned from his command because he had been promoted to larger responsibility as governor of the new territory of Wisconsin. The account of the Winnebago treaties on page 88 is badly confused; these tribesmen did not by the treaty of 1832 cede all their territory east of the Mississippi, only that south of the Wisconsin. Neither does the author state that the reason this tribe needed protection in Iowa was that they were occupying land ceded by the Sioux, the Sauk and Foxes to be kept as neutral territory — a buffer region between the two enemy factions.

With regard to orthography we are unable to account for the vagaries in spelling Indian names. The author says in his preface that he has "attempted to follow that of the Bureau of American Ethnology." Certainly his attempt has not been a success; nowhere can we find any authority for "Sac" instead of "Sauk," "Camanche" for "Comanche," nor has it been noticed that the plural of "Winnebago" is not "Winnebagoes" but the same form as the singular. We confess also a distaste for notes at the end of the text; it is trying and perplexing when enjoying a narrative to be obliged to stop and hunt through back pages for its source. In citations from the original sources we also doubt the utility of bracketed periods [.]; it seems to us that the space quod is sufficient to convey the sense.

With these slight objections, however, we note that the book is attractively printed, and well bound; maps and a few illustrations, such as portraits of Dodge and Kearny, and reproductions of some of Catlin's drawings would have added immensely to the interest.

We believe the book fulfils its purpose of "homage and recognition" that are "due to the thousands of plain, frontier soldiers for their quiet, unadorned, and often unheralded service"; and that it also adds a chapter in the building of that American army whose future the whole world is now watching with such breathless interest.

L. P. K.